KINDERZECHE
Historical Festival
Dinkelsbühl
13 - 22 July 2018
The following song is known as the "Kinderzech" anthem and is sung by everyone in front of the "Schrannen" at the close of the parade and after the Little Colonel's Speech.

Schallet heute Jubellieder

Schallet heute Jubellieder, 
tönt von Süd, Nord, Ost und West! 
Freudesperdend kehret wieder 
dieses frohe Jubelfest.

Festlich woge die bunte Menge, 
Freude winkt allüberall, 
rauschend mischt sich ins Gesänge 
Pauken- und Trompetenschall.

Um uns her ist alles Freude, 
sie wird gleichsam zum Gebot, 
alles drängt um uns sich heute, 
Freude färbt die Wangen rot.

Aber Unschuld, Schmuck der Jugend, 
bleibt uns rein und unversehrt: 
denn nur fleckenlose Tugend 
gibt der Freude wahren Wert!

Drum, so schallet Jubellieder, 
töne laut, Trompetenklang! 
Freunde, Eltern, Schwestern, Brüder, 
stimmt in unser’n Festgesang!

Immer kräftiger umschlinge 
alle uns das Freundschaftsband, 
und der Wunsch zum Himmel dringe: 
Segne Gott das Vaterland!
Kinderzeche Dinkelsbühl

The well-preserved medieval city of Dinkelsbühl with its towering gables, quaint timber-framed houses, narrow picturesque lanes, fortified walls and gatehouses provides the romantic setting for the annual Dinkelsbühl “Kinderzeche”.

Held in July each year, this unique and colourful historical festival has its origins in the early 17th century and is centred on a traditional local folk legend passed down through the generations.

Legend has it that in the spring of 1632, at the height of the Thirty Years’ War, Swedish forces lay siege to Dinkelsbühl for several weeks demanding the capitulation of the Free Imperial City. Displaying great courage, a crowd of children approached the Colonel of the Swedish troops and begged him to spare the city. Moved by the fortitude of the children and still mourning the loss of his own son, the colonel showed leniency and Dinkelsbühl was saved from devastation.

Event highlights

Today this fascinating legend is preserved in the form of an historical festival play at the Festival Hall followed by a live re-enactment of the surrender of Dinkelsbühl at the city’s Old town hall square. The colourful grand parade featuring members of historical groups dressed in period costumes and authentic uniforms offers visitors a journey through history spanning four centuries. Local school children join in the pageant on Mondays and Tuesdays and are rewarded with a “Kinderzechgucke” - a cone filled with sweets and candies - as a gesture of thanks from the people of Dinkelsbühl to its children and a tribute to the heroism displayed in the city’s darkest hour.

Outside the city walls, visitors have the chance to see the thriving Swedish battle camps in action with their bustling daily routine, war horses, raucous mercenaries’ songs, manoeuvres and gaming. The city also hosts a variety of fringe cultural events, exhibitions, children’s entertainment and funfair during the festival week.

Traditional guild- and sword dances, the rousing beat of the famous Dinkelsbühl “Knabenkapelle”, boys’ marching band, and the quaint historic buildings and cobbled lanes beautifully adorned with garlands of lowers all lend a particular ambience to the festival.

A living legend

Yet the Kinderzeche is more than a festival. It has become a way of life for the hundreds of citizens who participate in the event each year. And so the legend lives on in the hearts and minds of the people of Dinkelsbühl and will continue to do so for generations to come. We hope you will join us.

The vast collection of more than 1000 costumes, shoes, weapons and uniforms featured in the Kinderzeche is on display throughout the year at the Kinderzeche Zeughaus (The Armoury) in the Bauhofstraße for visitors who are unable to join us in July.

The Kinderzeche Festival Committee
Friday, 13 July 2018

5:30 pm
CONCERT by the Dinkelsbühl City Band at the Weinmarkt, followed by a procession to the Festival Tent at the Schießwasen

6:30 pm
OPENING of the funfair at the Schießwasen. Tapping the first “Festival Beer” barrel and traditional festival beer tasting

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from St. George’s Minster

6:30 pm – 12:00 midnight
FUNFAIR at the Schießwasen

8:30 pm
Multimedia show by August Forkel “Dinkelsbühl – Pictures of an Enchanting City”, classroom Kinderzech-Zeughaus

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from St. George’s Minster

2:00 pm – 12:00 midnight
FUNFAIR at the Schießwasen

Saturday, 14 July 2018

10:30 am
Youth DANCE PERFORMANCES at the Weinmarkt, Lore dancing, Dinkelsbühl Shepherd dancing, Biedermeier dances, “Kinderzechguckenreigen” and Guild Group dancing (Zunftreigen)

3:00 pm
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PLAY “THE KINDERZECH” with overture, Schranen-Festsaal (Festival Hall)

followed at ca. 4:45 pm by
“THE SURRENDER OF DINKELSBÜHL”, Old Town Hall Square, Altrathausplatz and procession of historical groups to the Schranne

Sunday, 15 July 2018

7:00 am
Morning reveille by the Dinkelsbühl “Knabenkapelle” (boys’ marching band)

8:30 am
Swedish BATTLE CAMP LIFE at the Schwedenwiese, city guards at the Wörnitz gate, Dinkelsbühl citizens, villagers, heads of villages, “Torwächter” and beggars corner in the Spitalhof

10:00 am
Dance performances at the Swedish battle camp

9:15 am
1st Performance
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PLAY “THE KINDERZECH” with overture, Schranen-Festsaal (Festival Hall)

followed at ca. 11:00 am by
“THE SURRENDER OF DINKELSBÜHL”, Old Town Hall Square, Altrathausplatz and procession of historical groups to the Schranne
11:45 am
2nd Performance
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PLAY
“THE KINDERZECHE” with overture,
Schrannen-Festsaal (Festival Hall)

followed at ca. 1:30 pm by
“THE SURRENDER OF DINKELS-
BÜHL”, Old Town Hall Square,
Altrathausplatz

2:00 pm
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PARADE
and the Little Colonel’s Epilogue

3:15 pm
Surrender of the banner
at the New Town Hall

4:30 pm
DANCE PERFORMANCES
Guild Group dances with traditional
SWORD DANCING
in front of the Schranne, Weinmarkt

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he
makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from
St. George’s Minster

10:00 am – 12:00 midnight
FUNFAIR at the Schießwasen

10:00 am
Dance performances
at the Swedish battle camp

9:45 am
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PLAY
“THE KINDERZECHE” with overture,
Schrannen-Festsaal (Festival Hall)

followed at ca. 11:30 am by
“THE SURRENDER OF DINKELS-
BÜHL”, Old Town Hall Square,
Altrathausplatz

12:00 pm
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PARADE
featuring local school children and the Little Colonel’s Epilogue

7:00 am
Morning reveille by the
Dinkelsbühl "Knabenkapelle"
(boys’ marching band)

8:00 am
Ecumenical Church Service in the
St. George’s Minster

8:30 am
Swedish BATTLE CAMP LIFE
at the Schwedenwiese,
city guards at the Wömitz gate,
Dinkelsbühl citizens, villagers,
heads of villages, “Torwächter” and
beggars corner in the Spitalhof

Monday, 16 July 2018

2:30 pm
CHURCH ORGAN CONCERT
for half an hour
St. George’s Minster

3:30 pm
DANCE PERFORMANCES
Guild Group dances with traditional
SWORD DANCING
in front of the Schranne, Weinmarkt

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he
makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from
St. George’s Minster

10:00 am – 12:00 midnight
FUNFAIR at the Schießwasen
Tuesday, 17 July 2018

9:00 am
Children’s FESTIVAL PAGEANT with the Dinkelsbühl Knabenkapelle (boys’ marching band), boys’ battalion, guild group dancers and children’s historical groups

9:30 am
Youth DANCE PERFORMANCES at the Weinmarkt, Lore dancing, Dinkelsbühl Shepherd dancing, Biedermieer dances, “Kinderzeichguckenreigen”, the Little Colonel’s Epilogue in front of the Schranne.

Followed by:
PRESENTATION OF GIFTS TO THE CHILDREN OF DINKELSBÜHL
Traditional “Kinderzeichgucken” (sweet-filled cones) distributed to children at the Town Hall, Rathaus

10:30 am
FUN AND GAMES FOR CHILDREN by the Torwächtergruppe at the “Bleiche” playground

starting 1.30 pm
SENIOR CITIZENS’ AFTERNOON AT THE FUNFAIR, Schießwasen

2:30 pm
CHURCH ORGAN CONCERT for half an hour, St. George’s Minster

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from St. George’s Minster

10:00 am – 12:00 midnight
FUNFAIR at the Schießwasen

Wednesday, 18 July 2018

starting 12:00 noon
CHILDREN’S DAY AT THE FUNFAIR, Schießwasen

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from St. George’s Minster

10:00 am – 12:00 midnight
FUNFAIR at the Schießwasen

22.30 Uhr FIREWORKS DISPLAY

Thursday, 19 July 2018

10:30 am
Official ”Kinderzeche” reception for former citizens and newcomers hosted by the Mayor Dr. Christoph Hammer in the foyer of the Kinderzech-Zeughaus

2:30 pm
Guided tour in the museum “Kinderzech-Zeughaus”

7:00 pm
Youth DANCE PERFORMANCES at the Weinmarkt, Lore dancing, Dinkelsbühl Shepherd dancing, Biedermieer dances, “Kinderzeichenguckenreigen” and Guild Group dances (Zunftreigen) with SWORD DANCING, at the Weinmarkt

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from St. George’s Minster
Friday, 20 July 2018

2:30 pm
CHURCH ORGAN CONCERT for half an hour
St. George’s Minster

6:00 pm
Dinkelsbühl “Knabenkapelle” (boys’ marching band) PARADE and Youth DANCE PERFORMANCES at the Weinmarkt in front of the Schranne, Lore dancing, Dinkelsbühl Shepherd dancing, Biedermieier dances, “Kinderzehguckenreigen”

7:00 pm
PUBLIC DANCE ON THE WEINMARKT (weather permitting). If the dance is cancelled due to weather condition it will be published on the homepage: www.kinderzecche.de on the day of the event.

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from St. George’s Minster

Saturday, 21 July 2018

10:30 am
GUILD GROUP DANCING, in front of the Schranne, Weinmarkt

3:00 pm
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PLAY “THE KINDERZECHE” with overture, Schrannen-Festsaal (Festival Hall)

followed at ca. 4.45 pm by “THE SURRENDER OF DINKELSBÜHL”, Old Town Hall Square, Altrathausplatz and procession of historical groups to the Schranne

5:45 pm
DANCE PERFORMANCES
Guild Group dances with traditional SWORD DANCING
in front of the Schranne, Weinmarkt

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from St. George’s Minster
Sunday, 22 July 2018

8:30 am
Swedish BATTLE CAMP LIFE at the Schwedenwiese, city guards at the Wörnitz gate, Dinkelsbühl citizens, villagers, heads of villages, “Torwächter” and beggars corner in the Spitalhof

10:00 am
Dance performances at the Swedish battle camp

9:15 am
1st Performance
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PLAY “THE KINDERZECHE” with overture, Schrannen-Festsaal (Festival Hall)

followed at ca. 11:00 am by “THE SURRENDER OF DINKELS-BÜHL”, Old Town Hall Square, Altrathausplatz and procession of historical groups to the Schranne

11:45 am
2nd Performance
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PLAY “THE KINDERZECHE” with overture, Schrannen-Festsaal (Festival Hall)

followed at ca. 1:30 pm by “THE SURRENDER OF DINKELS-BÜHL”, Old Town Hall Square, Altrathausplatz

2:00 pm
HISTORICAL FESTIVAL PARADE and the Little Colonel’s Epilogue

3.15 pm
Surrender of the banner at the New Town Hall

4.30 pm
DANCE PERFORMANCES of the Guild Group dances with traditional SWORD DANCING in front of the Schranne, Weinmarkt

8.30 pm
CLOSING CEREMONY OF THE KINDERZECHE’ WEEK in front of the Schranne

Youth DANCE PERFORMANCES of Lore dancing, Dinkelsbühl Shepherd dancing, Biedermeier dances, “Kinderzechguckenreigen”

PARADE AND CONCERT BY THE DINKELSBUHL KNABENKAPELLE (boys’ marching band), SWORD DANCING AND FLAG SWINGERS

“FINAL TATTOO” Festive illumination of the Marktplatz and Weinmarkt

9:00 pm
Join the night watchman as he makes his rounds through the old town, leaving from St. George’s Minster
Theatre program of the Landestheater Dinkelsbühl during the Kinderzeche

Friday, 13 July 2018
7:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "UND ES WAR SOMMER" (performed in German)

Saturday, 14 July 2018
3:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "ALADDIN",
Family play (performed in German)
7:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "UND ES WAR SOMMER" (performed in German)

Sunday, 15 July 2018
3:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "ALADDIN",
Family play (performed in German)
7:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "UND ES WAR SOMMER" (performed in German)

Tuesday, 17 July 2018
9:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "ALADDIN",
Family play (performed in German)
7:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "THE KING’S SPEECH" (performed in German)

Wednesday, 18 July 2018
9:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "ALADDIN",
Family play (performed in German)
7:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "THE KING’S SPEECH" (performed in German)

Thursday, 19 July 2018
9:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "ALADDIN",
Family play (performed in German)
7:30 pm
Summer Theatre Festival, open air stage: "THE KING’S SPEECH" (performed in German)
Theatre program of the Landestheater Dinkelsbühl during the Kinderzeche

Friday, 20 July 2018
9.30 Uhr
Sommerfestspiele, Freilichtbühne „ALADDIN“
Kinderstück für die ganze Familie von Herwig und Brigitta Thelen

19.30 Uhr
Sommerfestspiele, Freilichtbühne „THE KING’S SPEECH“
Schauspiel von David Seidler
Deutsch von Ella Dietrich

Saturday, 21 July 2018
15.30 Uhr
Sommerfestspiele, Freilichtbühne „ALADDIN“
Kinderstück für die ganze Familie von Herwig und Brigitta Thelen

19.30 Uhr
Sommerfestspiele, Freilichtbühne „THE KING’S SPEECH“
Schauspiel von David Seidler
Deutsch von Ella Dietrich

Sonntag, 22. Juli 2018
15.30 Uhr
Sommerfestspiele, Freilichtbühne „ALADDIN“
Kinderstück für die ganze Familie von Herwig und Brigitta Thelen

19.30 Uhr
Sommerfestspiele, Freilichtbühne „THE KING’S SPEECH“
Schauspiel von David Seidler
Deutsch von Ella Dietrich

Gastronomy specials

14 to 18 July 2018
10:00 pm – 12:00 midnight
FUNFAIR at the Schießwasen

Saturday, 14 July 2018
7:00 pm
SUNDOWNER - at the Weinmarkt
“Hotel Eisenkrug”, Café-Restaurant
“Meiser’s” and “Sonne” guesthouse with music entertainment

Sunday, 15 July 2018
7:00 pm
SUNDOWNER - at the Weinmarkt
Café-Restaurant “Meiser’s” and “Sonne” guesthouse with music entertainment

Monday, 16 July 2018
10:00 am
PRE-LUNCH DRINKS at the
“Stem” guesthouse

Tuesday, 17 July 2018
10:00 am
PRE-LUNCH DRINKS at the
“Stem” guesthouse

4:00 pm
SUNDOWNER at the
“Goldenenes Lamm” guesthouse

4:00 pm
SUNDOWNER at “Sonne” guesthouse, with music entertainment

Wednesday 18 July 2018
10:00 am
PRE-LUNCH DRINKS
“Meiser’s beer garden”
Participants in the parade

The first part of the parade comprises groups representing the Swedish enemy. These include various battalions of soldiers together with their families and cavalry officers.

The second part features the town’s inhabitants, such as the Mayor and Town Councillors, the “Lore” together with the town’s children, a group of citizens, town soldiers and guards and farmers parading different kinds of animals.

The final part of the parade showcases the “Knabenkapelle” (Boys Marching Band) and “Lore” dancing group, the Shepherd dancers, Biedermeier group, the “Guckenreigen” group and the “Zunftreigen” (Guild group) perform at the end of the parade.

Imperialist Herold on horseback - Swedish trumpet - Swedish Captain - Swedish Officer Sperreuth - Swedish Officer - pipler - Swedish infantry - surgeon - executioner - canons - powder carts - commissary wagons - children of camp followers - further Swedish infantry - spiritual guides - marauders - two town manservants - Lore with children - Mayor - councillor groups - Captain of the militia on horseback - town lieutenant with town servants - Boys Band and battalion - shepherd dancing - Folk dress group - artisans - Guild group dancing
Admission Fees / Information

For admission to each event the Festabzeichen (badge) and the corresponding ticket is required. € 5,–

Tickets for the Historical Festival Play in the Schrannen-Festival Hall and performance of the Surrender of Dinkelsbühl at the Old Town Hall Square, Altrathausplatz
1. Category € 13,–
2. Category € 9,–
3. Category € 6,–

Tickets for Historical Festival Parade and Epilogue
Stand seats € 5,–
other seats € 2,–

Tickets for Closing Ceremony
Stand A € 6,–
Stand B € 13,–
Stand C € 10,–
other seats (no advance bookings) € 3,–

Entrance tickets for Surrender of Dinkelsbühl at the Old Town Hall Square, Altrathausplatz € 3,–

Film/Multimedia-Show
Adults € 2,–
Children free

Kinderzehen-DVD € 9,90
Kinderzehen-CD with overture € 5,–
available in the Kinderzehen-Zeughaus and the Tourist Information

Reserved tickets must be collected 30 minutes before the start of performance.

Experience a nostalgic steam railway trip between Dinkelsbühl and Nördlingen on Sundays during the Kinderzehen.
For further information please see: www.bayernbahn.de

Tickets online: www.kinderzehen.de or www.tourismus-dinkelsbuehl.de

Advance bookings “Summer festival plays”:
Performances in the morning, phone: +49 (0) 9851 582 527-0
Performances in the afternoon and in the evening, phone: +49 (0) 9851 902 600

Important information!
While the organisers take all reasonable steps to ensure the safety of spectators during the festival, especially the parades, the visitor attends all events at his or her own risk.
The organisers will not be responsible for any loss or injury experienced by visitors attending these events.

Emergency services: Phone 112

Advance Notice: Dinkelsbühl “Kinderzehen” 12 to 21 July 2019
All information contained in this brochure is correct at the time of going to press but is subject to change without prior notice.
Bitte beachten Sie die Stiftung zur Pflege des Brauchtums in Dinkelsbühl:
Da wir seit Jahrhunderten in unseren Mitteln begrenzt sind, freuen wir uns über Zuwendungen in jeglicher Höhe. Die Stiftung wird über Generationen hinweg durch die Zielsetzung der Förderung des Vereins Brauchtums pflege Dinkelsbühl e. V. und der Kinderzeche tätig und unsere Kinderzeche nachhaltig sichern.

Stiftungskonto IBAN DE875581900000000051
bei der VR Bank Dinkelsbühl BIC GENODEF1DKV

DINKELSBÜHL
Schönste Altstadt Deutschlands (FOCUS)

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